

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, before "FIELD OF THE INVENTION," please insert the following:

CI
--The present application is a national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/CA99/00638, filed July 15, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/116,732, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,017,504.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 4-13, with the following amended paragraph:

C2
--The most common method for preparing perovskite and perovskite-like catalysts is the traditional method called "ceramic". This method simply consists in mixing constituent powders (oxides, hydroxides or carbonates) and sintering the powder mixture thus formed to high temperature. The problem with this method is that calcination at high temperature (generally above 1000°C) is necessary to obtain the crystalline perovskite or perovskite-like crystalline structure. Another drawback is that low specific surface area value is obtained (SS around 1 m²/g). An example of such a high temperature heating method is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,093,301 where a perovskite structure to be used in a catalyst is formed after heating a ground dry powder mixture at 1300°C.-

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 12-17, with the following amended paragraph:

C3
--As indicated throughout, the term "high energy milling" refers to the condition which is developed in the container of a "high energy mill" and where nanostructural particles of the components in the mill are induced. Examples of such high energy is mill include: planetary milling machine (so called G5 and G7), PULVERISETTE[®] (P5 and P7) milling planetary machine, ASI UNI-BALL MILL II[™] and SPEX[™] horizontal mill.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 5-13, with the following amended paragraph:

C4
--In normal milling conditions, starting powders are weighed and mixed in the desired proportion leading to the composition of the final compound. In this specific example, 3.3 g of lanthanum oxide (La_2O_3) and 1.7 g of cobalt oxide (Co_3O_4) were introduced in a cylindrical tempered steel container having 5 mm thick wall with three tempered steel balls [two of 7/16 inches diameter (11 mm) and one of 9/16 inches diameter (14 mm)]. Preferably, the total powder weight inserted into the container is about 5 to 7 g. The container is closed with a thick cover and hermetically sealed with a VITON[®] O-ring. To vary the energy of milling impacts, different sets of balls having various sizes and specific densities may be used.--